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TAGS: PREL GG RS EI

SUBJECT: IRISH VIEWS ON NEW RUSSIAN POLICY IN GEORGIA

REF: SECSTATE 40673

Classified By: PEO Section Chief Theodore S. Pierce; Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

Ireland agrees that Russia's recent Presidential instructions regarding Abkhazia and South Ossetia are disturbing, according to Deputy Director Ruaidhri Dowling, Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Office, Department of Foreign Affairs, to whom POLOFF delivered reftel demarche on April 122. He noted that the EU is also generally disturbed by Russia's actions and that the EU recently came out with a statement that calls for Russia to rethink its position on Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Dowling added that the Council of Europe would discuss this issue as part of their April 23 meeting. Ireland will follow the EU lead on addressing Russia's creeping annexation policy, he concluded. FOLEY